

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, July 11, 2006.

Dr. DAVID A. SCHWARTZ,
Director, National Institute of Environmental
Health Sciences,
Research Triangle Park, NC.

DEAR DR. SCHWARTZ: We are writing to encourage you to ensure the continued focus of the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) on preventable health risks associated with environmental sources and exposures, as you develop a program of greater relevance to human disease. An emphasis on discovering the role of environmental exposures in human health, disease, and disabilities will increase the importance of your proposed "roadmap" for NIEHS. We look forward to the future support and growth of the following established initiatives:

RESEARCH ON COMMUNITY HEALTH AND
ENVIRONMENT

Environmental exposures, and often diseases, occur with disproportionate impact on the health and well-being of local communities, particularly those already impacted by other risk factors for health disparities. Thus, continuing the focus of NIEHS support for community-based research will serve the health needs of the American public. It will also contribute to increased knowledge of acquired factors in complex situations involving other preventable risks that too often track with economic and political inequalities. The men, women, and children of unfairly impacted communities often must work, live, play, and attend school in environments that are contaminated at levels that exceed national averages, and sometimes even exceed legal limits, but often lack the resources to initiate scientific investigations. NIEHS research and outreach provides critical data that supports strategies to prevent or treat disease and disabilities among these communities, as well as regulatory action to identify contamination sources for targeted clean up.

RESEARCH ON CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND
ENVIRONMENT

Chronic diseases that show up later in life are frequently the result of preventable environmental exposures to pesticides, air pollution, and many other exposures that occur early in life. For this reason, continued support for research programs focused on children's health and environmental contaminants is a priority for our constituents and for the future of America's health. Examples of this kind of research currently supported by NIEHS include: pesticide impacts on cancer and brain development among children of agriculture communities; air pollution impacts on asthma and allergies among inner city children; and, industrial pollution impacts on learning and behavior among school children.

TIMELY AND COMPLETE REPORT ON
CARCINOGENS

In order to efficiently manage environmental health risks like chemicals, we must have accurate information on their toxicity. The Report on Carcinogens (RoC) is a biannual, congressionally mandated report that scientifically evaluates the scientific evidence to compile a list of all substances known or suspected to cause human cancers and to which Americans are exposed. The RoC is a reference standard for the private sector, for certain legislation, and is even used overseas as an authoritative text on carcinogens. The timely release of this critical Report is a priority for state and federal regulators, for international regulatory bodies, for communities, and for Members of Congress.

Sustaining these strategic initiatives in connection with your new initiatives will

contribute to the success of new research directions at NIEHS, and ensure that research findings on environmental factors are fully translated into protecting public health. We look forward to working with you to properly fund and support these programs.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Kucinich.
Louis Capps.
Rush Holt.
Bart Gordon.
Barbara Lee.
James E. Clyburn.

RECOGNIZING JONATHAN LOWERY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jonathan Lowery of Pattonsburg, Missouri. Over the past few months, Jonathan has served as my office intern. In aiding the day to day operations of the office, he has worked with enthusiasm and dedication. His efforts to represent my office have been commended by both my staff and our constituents.

As a student at Northwest Missouri State University, Jonathan has been pursuing a degree in Political Science with a minor in Public Administration and came to Washington, DC, this summer through the Stennis Congressional Intern Program. His ambition and interest in politics and government have been evident from the day he started his internship. He has a true commitment to the workings of government and his enthusiasm in helping the people of the 6th District is something to be admired.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Jonathan Lowery. He has been great to have in the office and his efforts are much appreciated. I wish him the best and that his future ambitions in the law and public service will be fulfilled. He will certainly be missed and I would like to ask the House of Representatives to join me in thanking him for all of his hard work and dedication. I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress.

H.J. RES. 88, THE "MARRIAGE
PROTECTION AMENDMENT"

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, on July 18, 2006, I voted against passage of H.J. Res. 88, a constitutional amendment to bar same-sex marriages.

The text of H.J. Res. 88, the Marriage Protection Amendment, reads as follows: "Marriage in the United States shall consist solely of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this Constitution or the constitution of any state, shall be construed to require that marriage or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon any union other than the union of a man and a woman."

Marriage and family law have traditionally been regulated by state, rather than federal, laws. Current federal law, as well as some

state laws, already prohibits federal recognition of same-sex marriage. Further, in 1996, President Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act, DOMA, which prohibits federal recognition of same-sex marriages and allows individual states to refuse to recognize such marriages performed in other states.

Some believe the Marriage Protection Amendment is necessary to strengthen the institution of marriage. While the amendment's supporters claim that it simply would remove the issue of same sex marriage from the courts, the text of the amendment also would remove decision making authority from Congress and state legislatures, where marriage and family law have traditionally been regulated.

My personal belief is that marriage is a union between a man and a woman, but that the regulation of marriage should be left to the states.

In 2004, Vice President DICK CHENEY spoke on the subject of a constitutional marriage amendment during a campaign appearance in Davenport, Iowa, when he said: The question that comes up with the issue of marriage is what kind of official sanction or approval is going to be granted by government? Historically, that's been a relationship that has been handled by the states. The states have made that fundamental decision of what constitutes a marriage. He also went on to say that with respect to the question of relationships, my general view is freedom means freedom for everyone.

I agree with Vice President CHENEY's remarks, and voted against the Marriage Protection Amendment on the House floor. This amendment would break sharply from our nation's commitment to, and constitutional tradition of, protecting individual rights. The truth is—and the proponents of this Amendment know it—there was not any chance for this to become a Constitutional Amendment. Just last month the Senate refused to pass it! The House Amendment was simply another effort by certain people to advance their political agenda. I support equal rights for all Americans. I am committed to a nation in which all Americans can share equally in the protections of the law.

IN HONOR OF MARTHA LOIS
MCGINNIS CAMERON NORTON

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements and promise of Martha Lois McGinnis Cameron Norton, or just simply Martha. I have known Martha much of my life as the "go to woman" in local elections. She is one of those Americans who embodies the meaning of the word citizenship; who works always to strengthen the quality of our democracy. Martha was born in Washington, Iowa, in 1922. She grew up on a farm and spent her childhood raising corn, tending hogs, and seeing to all the other chores of an Iowa farm girl. But being from Washington, she had politics in her blood. As a child she saw both President Hoover and Governor Roosevelt speak during the 1932 presidential campaign. Four years later she worked her